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THURSDAY
NOVEMBER 12, 1953

I talked to Hervé Alphand on the telephone this morning. He is concerned by reports emanating from Bonn and Washington, carried in several of the French newspapers, to the effect the United States will raise the question at the Bermuda Conference of divorcing the contractual agreements from the EDC Treaty. I told him we had [redacted]-no communication on this [redacted] from the Department but would look into it.

I appeared at ten o'clock before the Randall Committee and filed a written statement.

Afterwards I had 25 minutes for an oral presentation followed by the usual 20-minute period of questioning. I dwelt particularly upon the European Defense Community, which is what the members of the Committee seemed most interested in, although some of the later questions were addressed to Coal and Steel Community matters. It was evident that some members, including Clarence Randall, the Chairman, are unfavorable to a United States Government loan to the Coal and Steel Community and think [redacted] any such loan should be supplied by private banking institutions.

Harry Byrd went out with me at the conclusion of my hearing and I had a good talk with him. He is suffering from bursitis in his shoulder but seemed in his usual excellent health otherwise. He said, somewhat to my surprise, that the United States must liberalize its trade policies.

He spoke briefly of Eisenhower's failure so far to exert the strong leadership as President which the situation requires of him and thinks he must do so vigorously in the next Congress if ~~he is to accomplish his foreign policy~~ objectives.

Henry Hyde, Jacques Allez, Mary Duncannon, Frances Baker, and Dorothea Hammond came to lunch with us. Frances's husband is now the largest stockholder

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in a small Bordeaux vineyard which he and a group of friends have bought and placed under the direction of Alexis Lichine, whose book on wines, written a year or two ago, has had a wide currency. She is sending me a case of it as a present. Lichine is said to have a [redacted] fine palate, but at the time I annotated his book and later consulted the Nicolas people about some of his conclusions I thought his enthusiasm often got the better of his judgment.

Henry Hyde came back to the office with me and spent an hour talking in his own inimitable strain. He has a brilliant, inquisitive and intriguing mind. He has changed over to the law firm [redacted] headed by my old friend Murray Gurfein, and seems enamored of his profession. Unfortunately, things are not going well with Mimi and himself. He is 39, [redacted] she is 33, and they have not yet decided whether to be divorced.

Ed Martin came to see me about the Belgian military contribution for 1956. USRO is thinking of protesting against the Belgian plan for a cut-back in the number of divisions to be supplied SHAPE at that time. I told Ed how strongly de Staercke felt on this subject and that such an action on our part, coming at this particular time, might well raise difficulties in the ratification by Belgium of EDC. Ed promised he would see whether the whole thing could not be laid aside until December or later. With his acute insight and celerity in grasping problems, he immediately comprehended the issues involved. The situation in Belgium, according to de Staercke, looks [redacted] promising. Van Zeeland is making a statement today to the lower House and a vote should be had on the EDC Treaty next week.

Graham Martin brought over, at Doug Dillon's request, various private telegrams which have lately passed between Dillon and Washington. They are becoming increasingly apprehensive there of a delay by the French in facing up

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to a vote on EDC. In this connection the Embassy is placing an almost naive reliance on Bidault's assurances. Bidault is fighting hard to have the foreign policy debate this month but there is opposition to it even within the Cabinet. To date little progress has been made on a Saar settlement but the talks between the Chancellor and François Poncet are continuing. Graham is going back to Washington next week for a stay of considerable duration.

Jacques Fourcade asked me to come to his apartment tonight. He told me he thought his own chances for the presidency had been greatly increased by the coalition forming behind Monsieur Herriot's candidacy. This spirited old gentleman - almost 82, brave and eloquent - has distinct aspirations to finish his career in the Elysée. His physical condition is such as would make it almost impossible for him to carry out the customary functions of the office if he were elected. Although he has almost completely lost the management of his legs, he is still good for the consumption of a pound of pâté de foie gras and a litre of red burgundy during a light lunch. He compares his own physical fitness with that of President Roosevelt but does not seem to remember President Roosevelt's advantage over him from an age standpoint.

Fourcade believes there is no chance of the National Assembly voting on the EDC before the new President of the Republic is inducted into office. He thinks Bidault is the only political figure of consequence ready to push ahead even with the debate on general foreign policy at this time. The rest would prefer not to be placed on record until the presidential election is past and done with. In his opinion the Hague meeting will be postponed and Laniel and Bidault will go to Bermuda without any clear mandate from the Assembly on EDC and EPC. Meanwhile, the opponents of EDC are gathering their forces in a series of mass meetings in which each time the dominant element appears to be

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Communist. De Gaulle held a large press conference this afternoon and violently attacked the EDC treaty without proposing any sensible alternative.

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